

# HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS HEALTHCARE SUBCOMMITTEE FY 2021-22 BUDGET HEARING

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Agency Director  
January 13, 2021*



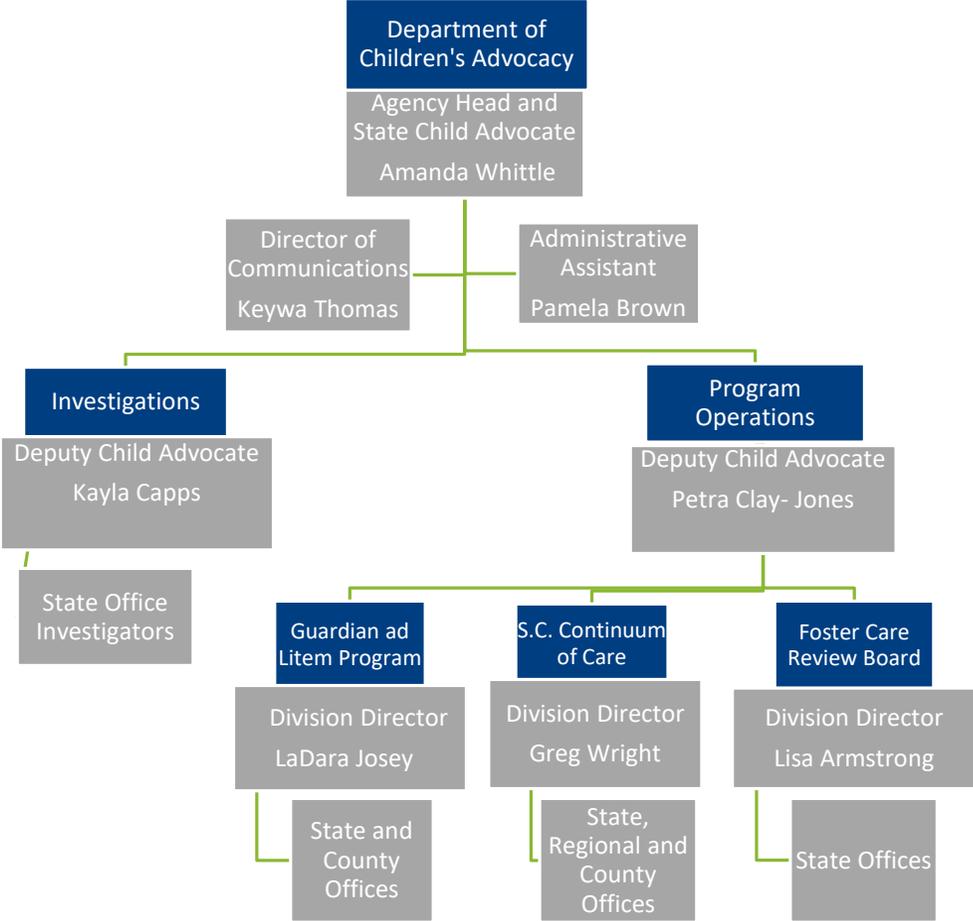
South Carolina Department of  
**CHILDREN'S  
ADVOCACY**  
Advocacy. Accountability. Service.

# Tab 1: Agency Attendees

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<b>Amanda F. Whittle</b>	<b>Agency Director</b> Department of Children's Advocacy	<a href="mailto:Amanda.Whittle@childadvocate.sc.gov">Amanda.Whittle@childadvocate.sc.gov</a> 803-315-2251
<b>Jason Epting</b>	<b>Agency Budget Director</b> Department of Administration Admin Shared Services	<a href="mailto:Jason.Epting@admin.sc.gov">Jason.Epting@admin.sc.gov</a> 803-737-3061

# Tab 2: Organizational Chart



# Tab 3: Summary of Budget Requests

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**Guardian ad litem Proviso Modification Request.** Also included in the FY 2020-21 budget, the FY 2021-22 budget proposes a modification of Proviso 41.2 to authorize a broader use of Guardian ad Litem Program's carryforward funds. Proviso 41.2 was promulgated prior to the Department of Children's Advocacy (DCA)'s effective date of July 1, 2019. In addition to administering the Guardian ad litem, Continuum of Care, and Foster Care Review Board divisions, DCA is charged with receiving, referring, monitoring, and investigating complaints regarding nine child-serving state agencies including DJJ and DSS critical incident notifications; establishing an objective system for reviewing and evaluating services by state agencies; and developing recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly and Children's Committee. The duties associated with investigating complaints, collaborating and coordinating with other agencies, and developing and promoting a broad vision of reform are associated with the goals of the Guardian ad litem Program, support the Program, and, like the GAL Program, provide advocacy, accountability and service for children. *See Tabs 5, 7 and 8.*

**Continuum of Care.** Based upon the July 29, 2020 approval of a Medicaid 1915(c) waiver regarding reimbursement for High Fidelity Wraparound, the FY 2021-22 budget *does not* propose a request for a budget increase for Continuum of Care. The FY 2020-21 budget proposed an increase of \$2,600,000 in recurring operating funding for Continuum of Care.



# Tab 4: Accountability Report Highlights

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**Guardian ad litem Program**: To recruit and retain staff to support Guardians ad Litem who advocate for abused and neglected children

**Continuum of Care**: To reduce youths' baseline crisis scores through intensive care coordination using the High Fidelity Wraparound model to support youth safely remaining and functioning in their homes, schools and communities

**Foster Care Review Board**: To provide legal advocacy for permanency for foster care children

**Investigations Unit**: To create and promote a coordinated online resource library for children and families

**Broad Vision for Reform**: To establish an objective system for reviewing and evaluating services provided by state agencies



# Tab 5: FY 2021-22 Budget Request Summary

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**Guardian ad litem Proviso Modification Request.** As the FY 2020-21 budget request, the FY 2021-22 budget request includes a modification of Proviso 41.2 to authorize a broader use of Guardian ad Litem Program's carry forward funds.



# Tab 6: Continuing Resolution Expense Mitigation

**Coordination with Other Agencies:** DSS's creation of a web-based portal and credentials for Investigations Unit to access DSS's records remotely without additional hardware or maintenance costs; Renegotiation with DSS regarding a Title IV(b) contract to avoid a request for additional state-allocated recurring funding to pay attorneys for Guardians ad Litem; Modification of a Title IV(b)/IV(e) contract with DSS concerning service delivery by Foster Care Review Board and Heart Gallery; Submission by HHS and approval by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of a 1915(c) Medicaid Waiver on July 29, 2020 provided a sustainable reimbursement rate for Continuum of Care's intensive care coordination; Admin's coordinated procurement of PPE

**Grants:** Partnered with S.C. Infant Mental Health (SCIMHA) for Safe Baby Courts grant; currently partnering with DMH and other agencies for submission of a SAMHSA grant regarding expansion and sustainability of children's mental health services

**Travel:** Reduced spending related to travel including continuing education seminars, per diem, hotel, mileage, and gasoline

**Equipment and Technology:** Modifications instead of replacement of Investigations Unit's case management system; Negotiation for WebEx subscription plan

**Personnel:** Intentionality regarding creating and filling positions

**Leases:** Review and assessment of consolidation and/or re-negotiation of leases for county office space

**Supplies:** Review of overall agency expenses to consider overlap and current/ongoing necessity

**Reimbursement:** CARES Act reimbursement requests



# Tab 7: Proviso Modification Request

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**Proviso 41.2. (DCA: Guardian Ad Litem Program)** ~~Both the program and the funds appropriated to the Department of Children's Advocacy, Guardian ad Litem Program must be administered separately from other programs within the Department of Children's Advocacy and must be expended for the exclusive use of the Guardian ad Litem Program.~~ For the current fiscal year, the Department of Revenue is directed to reduce the rate of interest paid on eligible refunds by two percentage points. The revenue resulting from this reduction must be used exclusively for operations of the Guardian ad Litem program and be deposited in the State Treasury in a separate and distinct fund known as the "South Carolina Guardian ad Litem Trust Fund." Unexpended revenues in this fund carry forward to succeeding fiscal years, and earnings in this fund must be credited to it. The Guardian ad Litem program may carry forward the other funds authorized herein for its operations from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year.

**Fiscal Impact:** Additional budget requests could be avoided if carry forward money is used in a less narrow sense. DCA requests authorization to pursue cost-sharing or cost-saving improvements to avoid duplication and to promote fiscal efficiency. DCA seeks authority to use the funds in a broader sense while maintaining the integrity of the funding to ensure that representation through court-appointed special advocates is not compromised.



# Tab 8: Carry Forward Summary

**Department of Children's Advocacy  
Carryforward Summary Report**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Fund Description</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Source of Revenue</b>	<b>FY 2020 Ending Balance</b>
10010000	General Fund	All Programs	State funds received through the Appropriations Act.	2,745,792
30980000	Donations	Guardian Ad Litem	Donations received from individuals or other entities.	4,938
34770000	COC Patient Fees DMH	Continuum of Care	Transfers from the SC Dept of Mental Health pursuant to DMH Proviso 35.1	-
37600000	Foster Care Medicaid	Foster Care Review Bd	Title IV-E funds received through a contractual agreement with DSS.	475,254
37640000	Medicaid Assist Payments	Continuum of Care	Medicaid Targeted Case Management (MTCM) billings for Wraparound Care coordination.	767,852
37850000	GAL Operating Revenue	Guardian Ad Litem	Title IV-B funds received through a contractual agreement with DSS for the payment of attorneys representing GAL volunteers in child abuse and neglect cases.	483,212
37850001	GAL 4E Training Contract	Guardian Ad Litem	Title IV-E funds received through a contractual agreement with DSS to provide training to GAL volunteers.	9,200
39580000	Sale of Assets	All Programs	Proceeds from sale of surplus assets	945
47J77000	Guardian Ad Litem Trust	Guardian Ad Litem	Transfers from the Department of Revenue pursuant to Proviso 41.2.	7,041,204
			<b>Total Carryforward</b>	<b>11,528,396</b>



# Tab 9: FTE Breakdown

Department of Children's Advocacy									
FTE Breakdown									
As of December 31, 2020									
Program	State			Other			Total		
	Filled	Vacant	Total	Filled	Vacant	Total	Filled	Vacant	Total
Administration	6.00	1.00	7.00			-	6.00	1.00	7.00
<b>Programs and Services</b>									
Guardian Ad Litem	50.22	4.05	54.27	53.00	13.95	66.95	103.22	18.00	121.22
Foster Care	5.24	0.53	5.76	15.76	3.48	19.24	21.00	4.00	25.00
Continuum of Care	19.28	7.55	26.83	25.50	16.45	41.95	44.78	24.00	68.78
<b>Subtotal Programs &amp; Services</b>	<b>74.74</b>	<b>12.12</b>	<b>86.86</b>	<b>94.26</b>	<b>33.88</b>	<b>128.14</b>	<b>169.00</b>	<b>46.00</b>	<b>215.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>80.74</b>	<b>13.12</b>	<b>93.86</b>	<b>94.26</b>	<b>33.88</b>	<b>128.14</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>47.00</b>	<b>222.00</b>

# Tab 10: Additional Information

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- Children's Trust
- South Carolina Network for Children's Advocacy Centers
- Other Child-Serving Agencies